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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/509,301 | 06/13/2000 | HAROLD JAY WILLIAM | 11750-002001 | 7680 |

7590 06/28/2002

JOHN F HAYDEN
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600 13TH STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

BARRY, CHESTER T

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
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1724

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DATE MAILED: 06/28/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

MF=10

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/509,301

Applicant(s)

WILLIAM, HAROLD JAY

Examiner

Chester T. Barry

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4-6 and 8-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Claims 1, 3 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by USP 5536264 to Hsueh. Hsueh describes a superabsorbent polymer col 1 line 32 having ion exchange properties and suggested for use in ion exchange columns col 51 line 32. It is widely known that ion exchange column media are typically in the form of beads, as shown by USP 5900146 to Ballard.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter for which protection is sought. "[O]r other convenient forms" renders the claims unreasonably imprecise in scope.

Claims 2, 4 – 12 are allowable over the prior art of record. Although WO/96/28251 teaches substantially all of the limitations of claims 2, 4 – 12, it fails to describe superabsorbent polymers. Although Hsueh suggests the use of superabsorbent polymers in ion exchange applications, i.e., ion exchange columns, only impermissible hindsight leads one to combine the features of claim 2, 4 – 12 described in WO '251 with Hsueh's non-specific suggestion to use superabsorbent polymers generally in ion exchange applications.



Chester T Barry

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703-306-5921